



Role of local monitoring systems in Indonesia's social safety net programs*

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The outbreak of the Indonesian crisis in late 1997 has forced Indonesian households to adjust to the first serious economic contraction in years.¹ The response of the government to the impending social impact of the crisis was to launch the so-called social safety net (SSN) programs in early 1998. These are a set of new as well as expanded initiatives widely known as the "JPS" programs, an acronym of the Indonesian term for social safety net, *Jaring Pengaman Sosial*.

It is important to note, however, that before the crisis, Indonesians had never relied on government safety net programs. The country has neither the economic apparatus nor the political mechanism required to deliver large-scale, widespread, transfer programs.

The government, among others, was therefore constrained by a lack of timely, complete, accurate, and acceptable data which it then needed during the crisis to be able to design the SSN programs that would help mitigate the adverse impact of the crisis. Nonetheless, despite the fact that there were no well-designed and publicly accessible information systems that would facilitate efforts to address the needs of the traditionally poor and newly poor resulting from the crisis, the government played a key role during the crisis, complemented by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and donors.

As the economic and political crisis in Indonesia worsened over the years, an increasing recognition of the need to identify and track emerging problems,

with a view to designing appropriate responses, was felt.

The only nationally representative set of data available during the crisis was that of the Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN). Since the BKKBN has been collecting data on welfare indicators of all Indonesian households through its cadres all over the country even before the crisis, majority of the SSN programs used the BKKBN data to target their beneficiaries. However,

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¹ Throughout 1998, real economic growth was -13.7 percent. This was a sharp turnaround from the high growth of the previous three decades, which averaged over 7 percent annually. The social impact of this large economic contraction was substantial, with poverty rate increasing by 164 percent from the immediate pre-crisis level in mid-1997 to the peak of the crisis by the end of 1998. In the labor market, even though the open unemployment rate only increased slightly from 4.7 percent in August 1997 to 5.5 percent in August 1998, real wages fell by around one third during the same period. One year later, real wage growth has returned to positive in most sectors but the unemployment rate continued to climb, reaching 6.4 percent by 1999.

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there have been some concerns over the reliability of the BKKBN data, both in terms of the way the data are being collected and of the static nature of the BKKBN indicators which does not allow the data to capture shocks suffered by households.

In this regard, this article discusses and evaluates the BKKBN monitoring system and its use for national programs and for identifying eligible beneficiaries for the SSN programs during the Indonesian crisis.

Targeting practices during the Indonesian crisis

There were various social safety net programs established by the government of Indonesia to mitigate the social impact of the recent crisis. These programs were launched in early 1998, but many of them did not start until the second half of the year. These programs were intended to help protect the precrisis poor as well as the newly poor as a result of the crisis through a four-fold strategy: (i) ensuring the availability of food at affordable prices, (ii) supplementing purchasing power among poor households through employment creation, (iii) preserving the access of the poor to critical social services, particularly health and education, and (iv) sustaining local economic activity through regional block grant programs and the extension of small-scale credits.

In general, the targeting for these programs was based on a combination of geographic and household targeting mechanisms, except for the subsidized rice program which used only household targeting. The targeting for some programs was based on a household classification created by the BKKBN. The subsidized rice and health programs explicitly used this BKKBN household classification for targeting. The selection of recipients in the scholarship



Dr. Sudarno Sumarto of SMERU sharing the role of local monitoring systems in Indonesia during the June 2004 PEP Meeting in Dakar, Senegal.

program was also intended to take into account their BKKBN household status. Originally, eligible recipients for some JPS programs were only KPS—the lowest household welfare classification—card holders, but for certain programs, for example, the OPK program on the sale of subsidized rice, eligibility was extended to include KS I—the second lowest classification—households as well.

The *padat karya* programs, meanwhile, consisted of quite diverse “labor intensive” programs and although specific programs were targeted to particular areas (such as drought areas), the lack of coordination meant that, in effect, there was little or no systematic geographic targeting of this set of programs. Within these labor ‘intensive’ programs, there were a variety of disagreements about the desired characteristics of intended participants but typically, the beneficiaries were not chosen according to any fixed administrative criteria. Hence, to the extent that there was targeting, it was primarily through self-selection.

In the scholarship program, scholarship funds were first allocated to schools where “poorer” schools received proportionally more scholarships. In each school, the scholarships were then distributed to individual students by a school committee consisting of the principal, a teacher repre-

sentative, a student representative, the head of the parent association as the representative of the community, and the village head. The selection of scholarship recipients was based on a combination of various administrative criteria such as household data from school records, family BKKBN status, family size, and the likelihood of students dropping out of school.²

School students in all but the lowest three grades of primary school were officially eligible. In principle, students selected to receive the scholarships were supposed to be from the poorest backgrounds. As a guide, scholarships were to be allocated at first to children from households in the two lowest BKKBN classifications. If there were more eligible students than the number of scholarships available, then additional indicators were to be used to identify the neediest students such as distance from home to school, physical handicaps, and children coming from large or single-parent families. A minimum of 50 percent of the scholarships, if at all possible, were also to be allocated to girls.

²Extensive monitoring of the education program revealed, however, that the parent representative played only a minor role in validating the implementation of the criteria. Decisions were mainly taken by the school officials.

In the health programs, the free medical and family planning services program was implemented by giving 'health cards' to eligible households based on BKKBN household status. A health card given to a household could be used by all members of the household to obtain free services from designated hospitals, clinics and health care centers for all medical and family planning purposes, including pregnancy check-ups and childbirth services.

Local monitoring in Indonesia: experience from the BKKBN's monitoring system

As noted in the abovementioned SSN programs, the targeting for some of them was based on a household classification created by the BKKBN. The BKKBN dataset was chosen because, compared to the annual National Socioeconomic Survey (SUSENAS) conducted by the Indonesian Statistical Agency (BPS), it covers more households, its enumeration is conducted by locals, and it has more specific indicators to determine whether a household is considered poor or not. More importantly, BKKBN data actually collect information on all households in contrast to the SUSENAS which uses only sample households.

Other institutions, both government and nongovernment, have used BKKBN data on family welfare as a targeting tool. Several examples include the Family Savings Program (Takesra); Family Credit Program (Kukesra); National Foster Parents Movement (GN-OTA); medical assistance for the poor; and housing assistance for the poor. During the economic crisis in 1997, BKKBN data were used as a targeting tool for some specific crisis-mitigating programs that were part of the SSN program.

The BKKBN was originally created in order to monitor the implementation of

the national family planning program in Indonesia. In 1994, a special section that monitors family welfare was added as the government intensified its effort to reduce poverty.

Little is known publicly, however, on how the BKKBN data are generated and how reliable they are in terms of accuracy as proxy of household welfare status. This is crucial as there have been some concerns, as mentioned earlier, over their reliability, both in terms of the way the data are being collected and their inability to capture shocks. The succeeding portions thus discuss the mechanics and reliability of the BKKBN monitoring system.

Background³

Prior to 1970, family data in Indonesia had been scattered and recorded by different departments in the government depending on the departments' needs. Furthermore, different recording procedures and standards had rendered efforts to combine the databases into a national database impossible. In the late 1960s, as the government started to push for the National Family Planning Program (NFPP), it needed a database on Indonesian families that captures all the required information to implement and monitor the NFPP. Thus, it established the BKKBN in 1970 as an agency that specifically deals with the recording and monitoring of Indonesian families and, most importantly, with the inputting of data into one database.

Initially, the BKKBN data consisted of monthly reports from public health centers that provide family planning services. These reports were sent to the BKKBN headquarters in Jakarta annually. Examples of such data are the number of users of contraceptive tools and their basic characteristics, the number of available health workers,

and the amount of contraceptive tool supplies that each health center has. In order to ensure data quality, BKKBN field supervisors were assigned at the *kecamatan* (subdistrict) level. By the third Five-Year Development Program (*Pelita III*, 1979-1984), all *kecamatan*s already had a field supervisor.

After an extended period of testing and modification in the recording and monitoring system, the BKKBN officially began the first national family planning survey in 1985. Village elders conducted this survey, usually over a three-month period, at the neighborhood level. The survey had been conducted annually ever since.

In 1994, BKKBN added to its survey two sections that consisted of questions measuring family welfare and family demographic characteristics. The welfare section is used to target poor families and provide them with special assistance programs as the government began to recognize the extent of poor families in Indonesia and started to implement specific programs aimed at tackling poverty.

At present, the BKKBN dataset consists of family planning data, family welfare data, demographic data, individual family member data, and data on family changes. The last two sections were added in 2001 and 2002, respectively. The family welfare section consists of a list of 23 indicators (Table 1) that would allow the BKKBN to determine the welfare category of a family.

There are five welfare categories, according to the BKKBN, ranging from 'Pre-Prosperous' to 'Prosperous 3 Plus'.

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³ Information in this section is compiled from BKKBN publications. Figures are also derived from these sources.

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These welfare categories are the following:

1. KPS (*keluarga pra-sejahtera* or 'pre-prosperous family') if it fails to meet all of the indicators 1 to 5.
2. KS1 (*keluarga sejahtera 1* or 'just prosperous family') if it meets all of the indicators 1 to 5.
3. KS2 (*keluarga sejahtera 2* or 'prosperous 2 family') if it meets all of the indicators 1 to 14.
4. KS3 (*keluarga sejahtera 3* or 'prosperous 3 family') if it meets all of the indicators between 1 and 21.
5. KS3 Plus (*keluarga sejahtera 3 plus* or 'prosperous 3 plus family') if it meets all of the indicators.

During the early inception of the BKKBN family indicators, there was a criticism that some families were categorized as pre-prosperous or poor solely on the basis of noneconomic reasons such as

failure to meet indicator 1. This can have an adverse implication if the category is used for program targeting as these families may actually need no benefits from the program.

To address this criticism, the classification scheme was revised by adding two additional categories of families, focusing only on particular economic criteria. These two additional classifications are referred to as KPS ALEK (*Keluarga Pra-sejahtera Alasan Ekonomi* or 'Pre-prosperous family based on economic reasons') and KS1 ALEK. A family will be classified as KPS ALEK if it fails to meet all of the indicators 2 to 5. Meanwhile, a family will be classified as KS1 ALEK if it fails to meet the indicator 7. Therefore, KPS ALEK families are a subset of KPS families and similarly, KS1 ALEK families are a subset of KS1 families.

Data gathering mechanism

At the household level, the data collection is implemented by neighborhood family planning cadres based on the BKKBN process shown in Figure 1. The preparation stage includes village-level meetings and training for enumerators. The meetings are necessary to determine budgets and timetables for the survey and to coordinate the data collection across neighborhoods. The BKKBN headquarters allocates funds to each *kabupaten* (district). Since the start of decentralization, more and more provinces allocate additional funds in order to provide supporting facilities such as computers and increased remuneration for the enumerators. The stage of preparation lasts between two weeks and one month. Training for enumerators usually lasts between two to three days and is conducted at the village level. The training consists of the process of filling out forms and of the importance of acquiring real data.

Table 1: BKKBN Classification Indicators

1	Family members are able to adhere to the principles of the religion of their choice
2	All family members are able to eat at least twice a day
3	All family members have different sets of clothing for home, work, school and visits
4	The largest portion of the household floor is not made of dirt
5	The family is able to obtain modern medicines or family planning services when a child is sick
6	The family is able to follow religious laws and customs
7	At least once a week, the family is able to consume meat, fish or chicken
8	Each family member obtains at least one new pair of clothing each year
9	There is at least eight square meters of household space for each occupant in the house
10	All family members have been healthy within the last three months
11	At least one family member older than 15 years of age has a fixed income
12	All family members between 10 and 60 years of age can read and write
13	All children between 7 and 15 years of age are enrolled in school
14	If the family has two or more living children and is still in the reproductive age group, the family uses contraceptives
15	The family has the ability to improve its religious knowledge
16	The family is able to save part of its earnings
17	The family is able to eat with able members together at least once a day, providing an opportunity for communication among family members
18	The family normally takes part in local community activities
19	The family undertakes recreational activities outside the home at least once every six months
20	The family is able to obtain news from newspapers, radio, television or magazines
21	Family members are able to use local transportation facilities
22	The family makes regular contributions in the form of money or goods in social activities
23	At least one family member is active in managing a local institution

After the preparation stage is completed, actual data collection stage takes about three months to accomplish. At the neighborhood level, data are collected house-to-house by local cadres such as teachers, youth groups, and family planning (FP) cadres, taking advantage of local knowledge and local monitoring. In addition, the enumerators are assisted by family planning field workers in each village and monitored by PPLKB (*Kecamatan*-level field supervisors). In 2000, close to a total of one million PPKBD, sub-PPKBD, and cadre groups conducted the survey, assisted by about 35,000 PLKB and PKB.⁴

⁴ PPKBD (*Pembantu Pembina KB Desa*) is Village Family Planning Assistant Supervisor; PLKB (*Petugas Lapangan KB*) is Family Planning Field Worker; PKB (*Penyuluh KB*) is Family Planning Extension Officer; and PPLKB (*Penyelia PLKB*) is PLKB Supervisor.

The result is the collection of individual-level data for each household and a very detailed neighborhood map, which is developed by the PPKBD or sub-PPKBD along with community cadres. The map consists of the location of every household in the neighborhood, the characteristics of each household—welfare category, family planning status, demographic characteristics—and available infrastructure in the neighborhood.

Prior to 2001, data reporting was conducted manually by filling recapitulation forms. The procedure for data reporting from neighborhood level up to Jakarta is as follows: data from the neighborhood level is sent to the village level, where it is combined with the village-level data and then collected at the *kecamatan* level. After that, each *kecamatan* sends the data to the *kabupaten* (district) where the data are further checked and combined before being sent to the provincial level. Each *kabupaten* also keeps a record of the data and distributes it back to the *kecamatan*s, villages, and NGO partners at the *kabupaten*. At the provincial level, the BKKBN receives data from the *kabupaten* and sends province-level data to the BKKBN headquarters in Jakarta within one week of receiving the data. In addition, it also processes the data and conducts preliminary analysis and disseminates the data back to *kabupatens* and partners at the provincial level. A similar activity takes place at the BKKBN headquarters in Jakarta. All in all, it took about five months in order to send data from the enumerators in each neighborhood to the BKKBN headquarters in Jakarta.

Starting in 2001, survey results were scanned into computers at the village level in order to expedite the subsequent checking and reporting process. Moreover, since computerization took place, surveys in subsequent years only

Figure 1. BKKBN data collection mechanism

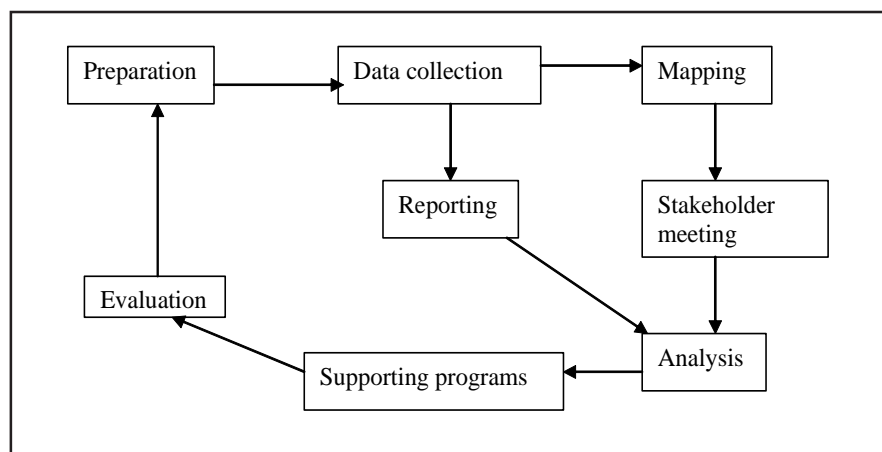


Figure 2. Data collection and reporting flow

Level	Conducted by	1994-2000	2001	2002
Central	BKKBN	Recap	Family data 2001	Family data 2002
Province	BKKBN	Recap		
Kabupaten/kota	BKKBN	Recap		
Kecamatan	PPLKB	Recap		
Village	PLKB/PKB	Recap	Scan to computer	Scan changes
Community	PPKBD/SUB-PPKBD	Recap		
Neighbourhood	Cadre	Survey result	Survey result	Family data 2001

record changes in the households instead of redoing the whole survey from zero. Figure 2 shows the revised data collection and reporting flow. Since 2001, the role of cadres has increasingly become more important as the data they gather are scanned directly at the village level and then sent straight to the BKKBN headquarters in Jakarta.

After mapping the survey results, a stakeholders meeting is held at the vil-

lage level attended by neighborhood leaders, village elders, village-level government officials, and NGOs. This meeting records the data on poor people and discusses the necessary actions to be taken to help the poor using specific poverty alleviation programs. Similar meetings are also held at each level of government up to the provincial level.

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At the central level, the BKKBN, other governmental departments and NGOs also analyze the data which are used as a targeting tool for programs undertaken by the central government and as data source by NGOs and research institutions, both local and international, in conducting related research. After the process is completed, the final step is the evaluation of the whole process.

Strengths and weaknesses of BKKBN data

There are two strengths of the BKKBN data. One is that they are the only available micro data that collect information down to each household in each neighborhood in Indonesia. As of 2002 (the 2003 survey is still being processed), the BKKBN Family Database has data on 197.5 million individuals, making it the most comprehensive database on individuals in Indonesia, albeit only collecting basic information. And two is that the BKKBN data are collected by locals. Local people know the condition of other people in their own neighborhood, which ensures the comprehensiveness of the data.⁵ This is the advantage of local monitoring.

On the other hand, there are also several weaknesses of the BKKBN data. These include: (1) the sheer amount of data collected makes mistakes unavoidable, even with the computerization in 2001; (2) the high variation in the ability of the enumerators could affect the quality of data and consistency across regions; (3) since locals collect the data, subjectivity could play a significant role in the data; (4) the data do not capture transitory shocks to income as they are based on relatively fixed asset; (5) the highly subjective noneconomic criteria are questionable like, for example, the capacity of fami-

It is possible that targeted intervention is more costly than universal intervention. Because of this, targeting is considered beneficial only when the benefits outweigh the costs.

lies to meet religious obligations; (6) the composition of the list is susceptible to changes by local government officials; (7) the system suffers from lack of funding, as is typically the case with government programs; and (8) in the face of high cultural variations in Indonesia, local-specific indicators are more important than national-level indicators.

The BKKBN has information on the 23 variables (indicators) used to categorize families. One possibility to improve the reliability of BKKBN data to better measure welfare is by performing an alternative classification method such as a scoring system or composite index to identify the poor. Summary indices can be constructed from a combination of indicators, and using the chosen variables, the principal components technique may be applied to summarize the “signal” contained in a set of variables dealing with a common topic. The first principal component of the set of variables, which is the linear combination of all the variables capturing the most common variation in all the variables, is used to construct the index. Such a technique, though, cannot as yet be applied inasmuch as the data at the household level are not yet available.

Concluding remarks

Targeting is very important but it is not nearly as easy as is often suggested. Besides administrative costs, targeting also entails additional costs, including disincentive costs, stigma costs and political economy costs. It is therefore

possible that targeted intervention is more costly than universal intervention. Because of this, targeting is considered beneficial only when the benefits outweigh the costs.

In the case of Indonesia during the 1997 financial crisis, the social safety net programs were intended to protect both the traditionally poor and the newly poor who were unable to cope with the adverse impact of the crisis without external assistance. In general, the targeting for these programs was based on a combination of geographic and household targeting mechanisms, except for the subsidized rice program which used only household targeting.

At the same time, there were several community-based monitoring systems in Indonesia during the crisis. Out of those systems, one of the most widely used is the BKKBN monitoring system. Unfortunately, several weaknesses of the BKKBN data have been uncovered by studies over the years. Two of the most glaring weaknesses, especially since it was used as the targeting tool for crisis programs, are the fact that (a) the data do not capture transitory shocks to income as the indicator is based on relatively fixed asset, and (b) the noneconomic criteria used in the household welfare classification are highly subjective.

In view of the above, steps to improve the reliability of the BKKBN data through the use of alternative classification methods must be considered. *

⁵This might be less so in urban areas.

CBMS-Bangladesh holds planning workshop on local level poverty monitoring system*

The CBMS-Bangladesh team held a planning workshop on local level poverty monitoring system last October 22 with the objective of experimenting on the possibility of developing a bridge between the service delivery agencies and the local government. This will help ensure that the need-based support services for the grassroots are distributed to them in a coordinated way.

The participants of the workshop were selected from among the officials of Nation-building Departments located in Upazila; villagers of Wards number 01

to 05 under the Muhammadpur Union; representatives of the local government at Muhammadpur Union and other adjacent Union Parishads; teachers of different educational institutes at the Daudkandi Upazila; and local journalists. A total of 134 participants attended the workshop.

The main agenda of the workshop was the presentation of the summary of Ward Plan Books of Wards number 01 to 05. The Chairman of Muhammadpur (west) Union, Mr. Alhaj Khalilur Rahman Sarker, presented the summary while Mr. Alhaj Ibrahim Khalil of the

United Nations Organization-Daudkandi chaired the session.

Also gracing the occasion was Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, MP Honorable Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, as Chief Guest. Mr. M. Khairul Kabir, Director (Project), Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), delivered the welcome speech while Mr. Md. Mir Kashem, Director In-charge (Rural Economics and Management), introduced the project activities. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Guha, Assistant Director, BARD, and Project Leader, LLPMS, presented the summary findings of the five Wards by using digitized maps, which were prepared using the CBMS-Natural Resource Database (NRDB).

In attendance, too, during the one-day workshop were: Md. Nazrul Islam, the Director-General of BARD, Dr. Celia Reyes, CBMS Network Leader, Ms. Anne Bernadette Mandap, Research and Administrative Officer of the CBMS Network Team, and Mr. Md. Abdul Quader, Workshop Director. *

The planning workshop on local level poverty monitoring system aims to experiment on the possibility of developing a bridge between the service delivery agencies and the local government so that the need-based support services for the grassroots may be distributed to them in a coordinated way.

*This article is an excerpt from a report prepared by the CBMS-Bangladesh Project Team.



PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader, Dr. Celia M. Reyes (third from left), was the special guest speaker during the planning workshop hosted at Daudkandi, Upazila led by Mr. Ibrahim Khalil. Mr. Khalil is one of the invited policy makers during the PEP meeting in Dakar in June 2004 who committed to support the implementation and use of CBMS in their respective localities

Stakeholders meeting on CBMS-Ghana*

To officially introduce and launch the CBMS project in Ghana, the CBMS-Ghana Project Team organized a stakeholders' meeting at the Dangme West District Assembly. Participants were drawn from Dodowa, Prampram and Ningo communities where the CBMS project will be implemented and also from poverty policy units in Government, which included representatives from the National Development Planning Commission, Ministry of Local Government as well as District Assembly members, Unit Committee members, Opinion Leaders and a Chief.

The District Chief Executive for Dangme West, Honourable K. T. K. Agban, in his welcome address, explained that the poverty situation in the Dangwe West district is overlooked even though it has been identified as one of the poorest districts in Ghana. He therefore welcomed the concept of community-based poverty monitoring hoping that it could help the district identify the poverty situation and provide information on where to direct the scarce resources that are made available to the district.

Meanwhile, in his brief remarks, Mr. Mohammed Ali Amadu, the District Planning Officer, informed participants that as part of the preparatory work, he was invited to Senegal with CBMS researcher, Dr. Felix Asante, in June 2004 to participate in an international



Participants and organizers of the stakeholders meeting on CBMS-Ghana were all smiles for the success of the meeting as they pose for a group picture.

CBMS network meeting. He noted that Ghana is the first English-speaking country in West Africa to implement the project. He then called for the collective effort of every participant to make the project a success. He emphasized that data collection for the district is very important since it will help improve the district's ability to not only properly allocate resources but to also obtain information on which projects to prioritize and where to cite them for the benefit of the communities' poverty reduction efforts.

As explained by Dr. Nii Kwaku Sowa, CBMS-Ghana Project Director, data gathered by the Ghana Statistical Service on poverty levels have more often than not simply glossed over the community levels and as such, effective assessment of the poverty situation

within the communities cannot be successfully conducted. Against this background, the community-based monitoring project will be piloted in the Dangwe West District, to bridge the gap and gather data at the community level for the effective planning and monitoring of poverty reduction programs.

The significant contributions made by the participants during the discussions of the draft questionnaires will be incorporated in the final version, according to Dr. Asante.

Dr. Sowa thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions and hoped that the enthusiasm exhibited will be repeated in their various communities toward the CBMS project when the survey begins. *

*This article is an excerpt of an article from the September 2004 issue of CBMS-Ghana Newsletter, prepared by Ms. Ivy Aryee, Project Officer of CBMS-Ghana and Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP), Ghana.

...in Lao*

Spearheading the implementation of the CBMS in Lao, the National Statistical Center (NSC) collaborated with the planning departments of the Savanakheth and Saravan provinces in the setting up of a technical team. It also met with officials from various ministries and the National Growth Poverty Eradication Strategy Committee to consult with them on the contents of the questionnaire being prepared for data collection, especially regarding issues on poverty.

Training for the villages' enumerators has also begun, with the first set held at the Sepon district on November 8-9, 2004 and the second at the Toomlan

district on November 13-14, 2004. The training dealt with the procedure on filling in the data in the household questionnaires and in understanding the content and purpose of the questionnaire.

Data collection was conducted from November 15-23 with provincial and district-level supervisors assigned to observe and assist the villages' enumerators during the survey implementation.

Data entry is currently being done and targeted to be completed in three weeks. Technical staffs from the NSC will assist the provincial staff in the entry of data scheduled from December 2004 to January 15, 2005.

Later, data edition and validation, which is still new for the provincial government staff, will be done at the provincial level with assistance from NSC staffs. *

*This article was based on a report prepared by the CBMS-Lao Project Team.

...in Cambodia

The Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) organized a national seminar on "Working toward a commune-based poverty monitoring system (CBPMS) in Cambodia" on November 18, 2004 at the Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia to present the results of the pilot implementation of the CBPMS in Cambodia and elicit feedback from various stakeholders on said system. The results were presented by the CBPMS Team led by its Leader, Mr. Nou Keosothea, and consisting of representatives from the pilot commune sites in Battambang and Kratie.

It was concluded from the workshop that the CBPMS is a good tool to spread to all communes for better planning, targeting of poor and vulnerable households, use in resource allocation, and for resource input in socioeconomic studies. However, more efforts are needed to create awareness among local councils for the proper use of the data.

The seminar was attended by H.E. San Sy Than, Director General, National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, and H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Ministry of Planning. Other participants included key officials of the CDRI led by its Director, Mr. Larry Strange, and Research Director, Dr. K.A.S. Murshid; Mr. Chan Sopha of the World Food Programme (WFP); Ms. Angelika Fleddermann of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ); and Mr. Kan Sim of the SEILA Program.

Details of the program may be viewed from the CBMS section of the PEP Network website at www.pep-net.org. *

Linking with other networks

Delhi meeting on gender budgets

Upon the invitation of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) of New Delhi-India, PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader, Dr. Celia Reyes, participated as resource person at the International Experts Group Meeting on Local Gender Responsive Budgets held on November 1-4, 2004 at the India International Centre in New Delhi. Dr. Reyes presented the potentials of the community-based monitoring system

(CBMS) in providing the necessary disaggregated information for the preparation of local gender responsive budgets.

The Experts Group Meeting aimed to share and critically evaluate cross-country experiences on existing approaches and methodologies on local-

Series of training workshops for new CBMS partners

The CBMS Network Coordinating Team has conducted a series of training workshops for trainors and enumerators on CBMS data collection for its new partners in Bulacan, Pasay and Mandaue. Said workshops in Mandaue and Pasay were immediately followed by a training on data encoding using the CBMS computerized data processing system.

Bulacan

Last October 20-22, the province of Bulacan, with technical assistance from the CBMS team, conducted a training of trainors on data collection in preparation for the implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in 22 municipalities and one city in the province of Bulacan. Participants for this training included the municipalities/city's respective municipal/city planning and development coordinators (M/CPDCs), municipal/city social welfare development coordinators (M/CSWDCs) and community affairs officers (CAOs). These officers will serve as

trainors in the data collection training in their respective municipalities/city, with assistance from the provincial planning and development office (PPDO), provincial social welfare and development office (PSWDO) and the CBMS team.

After the training of trainors on data collection, the first batch of training at the municipal/city level had commenced with succeeding batches of training at other municipalities/cities held afterwards.

The data collection activity for the 22 municipalities and one city in Bulacan will start in and cover the whole month of January 2005.

Pasay City

The city government of Pasay also started its training workshops on data collection and encoding for trainor-enumerators and encoders, respectively, in preparation for the city-wide implementation of the CBMS in its locality. The trainings, which were

held on November 9-12, were spearheaded by the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO) and City Cooperative Office (CCO) led by Engr. Merlita L. Lagmay and Mr. Rolando A. Londonio, respectively.

The workshop participants for the training in data collection consisted of church and barangay leaders and volunteers. The encoders, on the other hand, are divided into two categories, namely, the encoder-supervisors who come mainly from the CPDO and CCO, and the hands-on encoders who are drawn from among an ample number of on-the-job training students.

The trainors will spearhead the next data collection workshops in Pasay City with assistance from the CBMS team.

Mandaue City

In preparation for its city-wide implementation of the CBMS, the city government of Mandaue, Cebu began a series of training for four batches of trainor-enumerators from Mandaue's 27 barangays.

The first of a series of CBMS training workshops in the city was conducted by the CBMS Network Coordinating



Bulacan's Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Ms. Arlene Pascual requests the commitments of the CBMS enumerators during her visit in one of the training workshops in Bulacan.

Participants for the training workshop on data encoding in Mandaue City encode accomplished CBMS household questionnaires during the classroom exercise.



Team on November 16-18. Said workshop was geared for designated lead trainers and CBMS team leaders for survey operations in the City of Mandaue. Participants included members of the technical working group (TWG) for CBMS Mandaue, barangay health and nutrition workers (BHNWs) and other community officials from the 27 barangays of the city.

Thereafter, trained participants from the said workshop, particularly those

selected members of TWG of CBMS Mandaue, conducted the succeeding workshops for volunteer enumerators from the community held on November 19-21 under the supervision of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team.

The said workshops on data collection were then followed by a training on CBMS data processing system for des-

ignated CBMS data encoders in Mandaue. The activity was attended by 50 participants composed of city officials and barangay volunteers.

The series of CBMS training workshops in Mandaue was organized by the CBMS TWG of the city government of Mandaue. *

Other news...

CBMS briefings

Key officials of the provincial government of Eastern Samar led by its Hon. Governor Ben Evardone visited the CBMS Network Coordinating Team on December 4, 2004 in line with their request for a briefing on the CBMS. Also present during the activity were members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, provincial administrator; Mayors George Eroba of San Julian, Cesar Tagon of Ernani and Vegerano Gesite of Balangkayan; and representative of the municipality of Dolores.

New partners

The provincial government of Agusan del Sur led by its Governor, Hon. Adolph Edward Plaza, has recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the CBMS Network Coordinating Team and the Voluntary Services Organization (VSO) in line with the implementation of the CBMS in the province. The provincial government has already allocated budget from its development fund for the implementation of the CBMS.

Meanwhile, the municipal government of San Julian in Eastern Samar led by its Municipal Mayor, Hon. George Eroba, in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) has already allocated a budget for the implementation of CBMS in the locality per the MOA it earlier signed with the CBMS Network Coordinating Team.

Accordingly, CBMS training workshops to be conducted by members of the Team for key personnel in the said local government units (LGUs) have been scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2005.

Sharing CBMS

Two national-level meetings were recently attended by Dr. Celia Reyes to share CBMS. The first was at the Strategic Planning Workshop of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) on November 12, 2004, where she presented the poverty situation, an assessment of poverty reduction programs and targeting schemes, and the use of the CBMS in identifying eligible beneficiaries and in monitoring the impact of programs.

Last November 17, meanwhile, Dr. Reyes shared in another forum on "Advanc-

ing spatial information management in government toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)" the application of the Geographic Information System (GIS) in the CBMS as a way of facilitating the determination of the extent of poverty, identifying eligible beneficiaries and monitoring impacts.

National conference on CBMS

A national conference on the use of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) was held on September 23-24, 2004 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. The conference featured applications of the CBMS on local governance as well as the lessons learned by local government units that have adopted the system in their respective localities.

Details of said conference are contained in a supplemental magazine to this issue of the CBMS newsletter.

Full copies of the conference papers and presentations may be viewed at the CBMS Network section of the PEP website at www.pep-net.org. *

News Updates

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level gender responsive budgeting in developed and developing countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Arab region as well as in some Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries. Outcomes of the deliberations during the said meeting are expected to lead to the development of an appropriate methodology for local-level gender budgeting. This may be attained by refining existing tools and by making them accessible to the key actors in the decentralized levels of economic governance.

The meeting was organized by the NIPFP in coordination with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the European Commission (EC) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-Canada.

Symposium in Sri Lanka

Dr. Reyes was invited to provide an overview for the launching of the Regional Conference on Poverty Monitoring (RCPM) publication entitled "Poverty Monitoring in Asia", last October 19, 2004. The event was a joint initiative of the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) and Program to Improve Capabilities for Poverty Research at the University of Colombo (IMCAP). Said publication includes selected papers from the RCPM held in March 2004 in Manila.

The RCPM publication includes selected papers prepared by the CBMS Network such as "CBMS as a Tool for Decentralized Poverty Monitoring", and CBMS-Natural Resource Database (NRDB) as a tool for poverty monitoring. *

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The **Updates** may be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format for free from the Project's website. The site can be accessed through <http://www.pep-net.org>.

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